



November 24, 2003

Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

I serve as Vice President for Government Affairs for Province Health Care. Province is a publicly traded hospital management company and is listed on the NYSE as PRV.

Each of our 58 hospitals either owns and operates emergency services vehicles or serves as a home base for other EMS providers. Most of our hospitals are in rural areas and are the only acute care provider available. Obviously, clear and uninterrupted communications with our EMS units is vital for the safety of our patients.

First responders across the United States have had increasing problems because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire, and other public safety communications increases.

We understand that the Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We understand that the Consensus Plan is supported by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials – International, Inc., as well as the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc., the International Municipal Signal Association, the International

Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Major Counties Sheriffs Association, and the National Sheriffs Association.

I believe it is vital that lines of communications between our hospitals and EMS, fire, and police agencies be clear of interference. We urge you to strongly consider the Consensus Plan as a long-term answer for this problem.

Please feel free to contact me at 615.376.7268 if you have any questions or desire further information.

Very truly yours,

Tony Fay
Vice President of Government Affairs
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